

Latest Regulatory Updates from HSE: Responding and Adapting to Change

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Head of Unit (Chemicals Regulation Division)



Look back

**Engaging with
stakeholders**

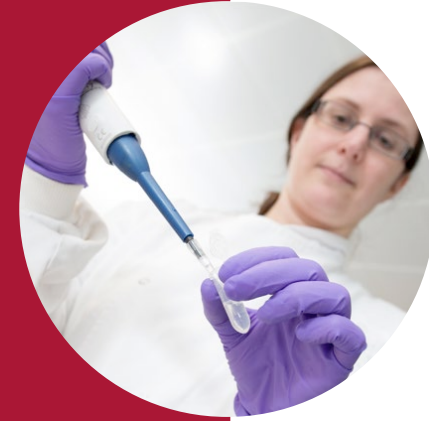
Regulatory landscape

Capacity & capability

Delivery focus

Questions

**Responding
and Adapting
to Change**



Look Back

- ❑ ~5 **calendar years** of HSE operating as the independent GB regulator for pesticides (and supporting Northern Ireland)
- ❑ EU Exit has been the biggest change we've had to **respond** and **adapt** to
- ❑ Subject of significant industry, press and **Parliamentary** interest



Responding and Adapting to Change

Collaboration with key stakeholders – • DWP & DEFRA & OGDs • Other agencies/regulators/oversight bodies • Industry, users & NGOs • Adapting to and influencing cross government priorities • Ensuring no regulatory gaps/minimising overlaps • Responding to applicant/user needs • Maintaining high standards of protection	Regulatory landscapes – domestic and international • Navigating regulatory and political landscapes across the Four UK Nations • Navigating regulatory co-operation with the EU • Learning from international regulators & others
Ensuring capacity and capability to support future work • Moving from interim to full operating capability • Building and retaining necessary skills • Balancing our leadership commands	Maintaining Delivery Focus • Improve quality and timelines of ‘permissions’ to businesses • Improve service delivery • Reduce cost of regulatory service delivery

Key Stakeholders

**PROTECTING PEOPLE
AND PLACES**



International Engagement



United Nations

**Other Global
Regulatory
Authorities**

UNGHS
- Classification, Labelling
and Packaging



Codex
- Pesticides
Residue/ Food



JMPR
- Pesticides
Residue / Food)



**Other
Intergovernmental
Organisations**



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NB Representative, not exhaustive list.

Regulatory Landscape

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Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023

The UK-EU reset: Next steps after the May 2025 summit

Published Tuesday, 29 July, 2025

Support HSE Activity:

- HSE’s Chemicals Legislative Reform - Biocides & CLP
- Regulation Innovation Office – ensuring regulation enables innovation in science and technology
- New approach to ensure regulators and regulation support growth
- OECD & UNGHS

Support Defra and Devolved Governments Delivering:

- Chemicals and Pesticides Common Framework
- UK Pesticides National Action Plan
- Protection of bees from pesticides
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement

New Approach to Ensure Regulators and Regulation Support Growth

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Regulation Action Plan - Progress Update and Next Steps

Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 2

Tackling Complexity and the Burden of Regulation

Chapter 3

Reducing Uncertainty Across our Regulatory System

Chapter 4

Challenging and Shifting Excessive Risk Aversion in the System

Regulator dashboard

Information and key performance indicators (KPIs) from 16 UK regulators, published quarterly as part of the UK government’s Regulatory Action Plan.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

HSE is Britain’s national regulator for workplace health and safety. It prevents work-related death, injury and ill health by working with businesses, employers and workers to ensure risks in the workplace are properly managed. HSE regulates various high-risk work sectors including construction, chemicals, nuclear installations, offshore oil and gas, and mining. It provides guidance, conducts inspections, investigates incidents and enforces health and safety legislation.

- [HSE website](#)
- [HSE annual report and KPIs \(opens as a PDF\)](#)
- [contact HSE](#)

From: [Department for Business and Trade](#)
Published 21 October 2025
Last updated 30 October 2025 — [See all updates](#)

UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025

Action 6: Review regulatory barriers to innovation, particularly around precision application technologies: explore the potential benefits and drawbacks of pesticide application by drones and consider whether rules and guidance need to be amended.

Action 8: Continue to provide additional support to biopesticide applications.

Action 9: Consider how we can make improvements to the arrangements for GB biopesticides to reduce burdens without compromising environmental and human health standards.

Action 16: Review how membership of industry / assurance schemes might be taken into account as part of assessing users risk profiles, so inspections are better targeted.

Action 17: Ensure guidance on the use of PPPs, in particular the ‘Codes of Practice for using plant protection products’ (and the Code of Practice for suppliers of pesticides to agriculture, horticulture and forestry), are updated to be current, remain clear and easily accessible, support compliance and embed IPM as a key part of our long-term approach to pest control.

Action 18: Engage with online marketplaces to discuss findings of research regarding online sales of professional PPPs, and approaches to increasing visibility of the legal requirements of their use for the general public.

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Drone Technology

- ❑ Assessing & issuing experimental permits to **apply pesticides by drone**
- ❑ Providing **leadership** at the international level
- ❑ Building an **evidence base** to inform future policy and regulatory considerations



Regulatory Innovation Office

Agriculture

In 2025, a UK company were given the UK's first permanent approval to fly BVLOS but agricultural drones companies also needed HSE authorisation to apply pesticides using drones.

Thanks to RIO's work with HSE, drones can now apply, on an experimental basis, slug pellets quickly and precisely, potentially cutting carbon, improving yields and reducing risks to workers and the environment. This is an important initial step to bringing choice and competition to the pest, weed and disease control market and opening up the UK crop protection drone sub-sector.

**PROTECTING PEOPLE
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Protecting Bees



[Home](#) > [Environment](#) > [Wildlife, animals, biodiversity and ecosystems](#)

Press release

Government takes action to protect bees from pesticides

Government announces new guidance to protect pollinators such as bees

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#) and [Emma Hardy MP](#)

Published 11 September 2025

Last updated 11 September 2025 — [See all updates](#)

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[view as a webpage](#)



Health and Safety
Executive

Pesticides ebulletin
Issued: 11 September 2025

This ebulletin contains information relating to [plant protection products \(PPPs\)](#) in Great Britain (GB)

HSE has updated guidance on the Article 53 emergency authorisation process

The new guidance has now been published and must be used for all future Article 53 applications.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement



Cabinet Office

Policy paper

UK-EU Summit - Explainer (HTML)

Updated 19 May 2025

Today the UK and the EU have agreed on a substantial package. This new agreement is set out in the Joint Statement; Common Understanding, and Security and Defence Partnerships which cover the following areas:

SPS AGREEMENT

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Capacity

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Capability

- ❑ **Achieved** staff level of 450
- ❑ Focused on recruitment of graduate scientists, and particular specialisms e.g. **toxicologists**.
- ❑ Working towards increasing **skillsets** and levels of **experience**
- ❑ Getting the right **balance** of work for our most experienced staff

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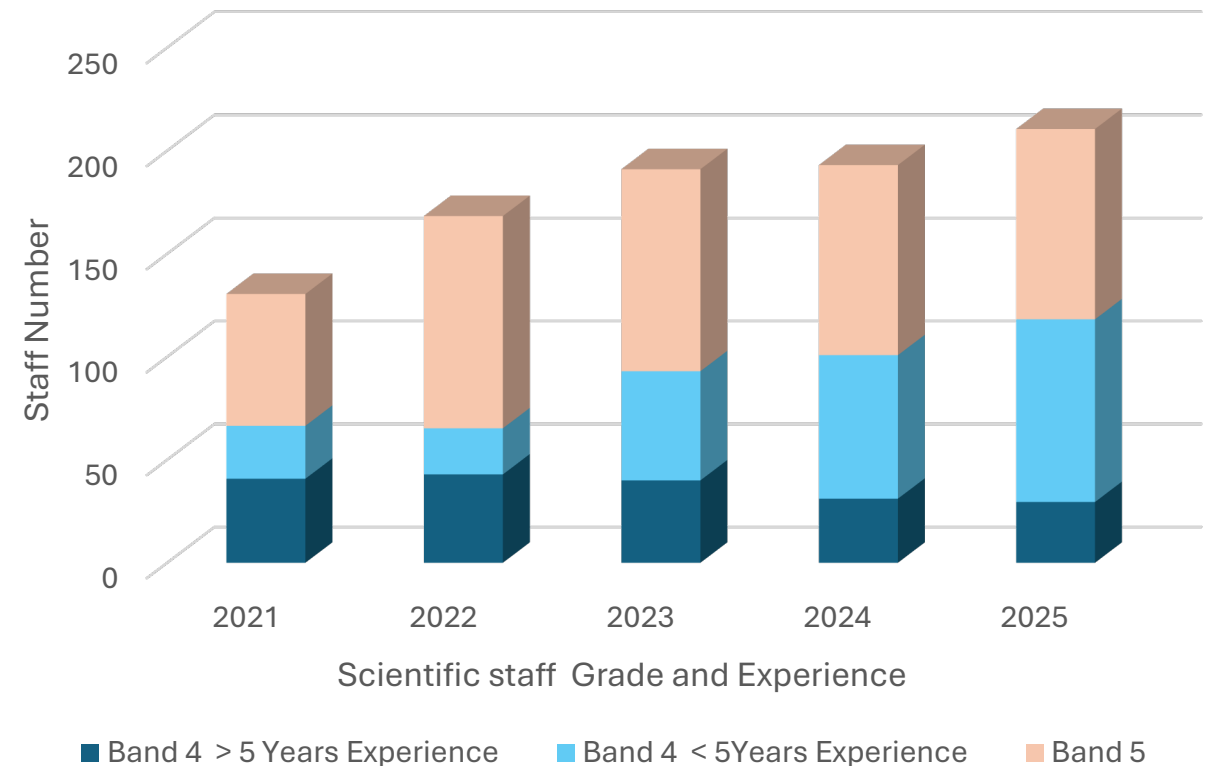
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Number of CRD Band 4 and Band 5 Scientists (All Regimes)



Delivery



2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Deliver 95% of planned permissions for pesticides to legislative timescales		
Delivered 711	Delivered 780 (Annual Report imminent)	On track
+ Numerous overdue applications concluded + Expiry dates of many supported active substances extended (since 2021)		
Renewal assessment of glyphosate active substance started		
4 new pesticide active substances approved in Great Britain		

HSE Business Plan 2025 to 2026



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